

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15

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TAGS: EEC, PFOR, ECIN, GR, EFIS, PLOS

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL JULY 27: PREVIEW

REF: EC BRUSSELS 7187

1. SUMMARY: THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL HOLD A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING JULY 27 IN BRUSSELS TO DISCUSS (1) EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS, (2) PREPARATIONS FOR THE EC/ GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL, (3) CIEC, (4) UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS, AND POSSIBLY (5), THE PROPOSED EC DECLARATION OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH A 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE. END SUMMARY.

2. DIRECT ELECTIONS.

THE MINISTERS WILL CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSION OF EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT DIRECT ELECTIONS IN AN ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE THE IMPASSE
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REACHED AT THE JULY 19-20 COUNCIL MEETING. ACCORDING TO PERM-

REP SOURCES, THE FRENCH RESERVE (SEE REFTEL) RESULTED FROM THEIR INSISTENCE THAT, ACCORDING TO THE FRENCH CONSTITUTION, AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OR TREATY TO WHICH FRANCE IS A PARTY, MUST ENTAIL IDENTICAL COMMITMENTS FOR ALL THE PARTICIPANTS. IN THE FRENCH VIEW, AN AGREEMENT THAT FRANCE AND OTHER STATES SHOULD HOLD EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS IN JUNE 1978, WHILE THE UK WOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO THE SAME OBLIGATIONS, MIGHT POSSIBLY BE REJECTED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OR BE RULED INVALID BY THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT. ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, THE FRENCH RESERVE WAS IN NO WAY A LAST-MINUTE ATTEMPT TO BACK OFF FROM THE EUROPEAN COUNCIL DECISION ON DIRECT ELECTIONS BUT RESULTED RATHER FROM FRENCH CONCERN THAT AN AGREEMENT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS HAVE THE GREATEST POSSIBLE PROSPECT OF RATIFICATION AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL. THESE SOURCES CONFIRM THAT A COMPROMISE TEXT HAS BEEN DEVELOPED WHICH WILL NOT INDICATE A DATE ON WHICH THE ELECTIONS WILL HAVE TO TAKE PLACE FOR THE FIRST TIME, BUT WILL STIPULATE THAT A DATE BE SET BY THE COUNCIL AFTER THE ACT ON DIRECT ELECTIONS HAS RECEIVED NATIONAL RATIFICATION.

3. THE PROBLEM RAISED BY DANISH INSISTENCE THAT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS IN DENMARK BE HELD AT THE SAME TIME AS NATIONAL ELECTIONS AND THAT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENTARIANS ALSO BE MEMBERS OF THE FOLKETING WILL, ACCORDING TO PERMREP SOURCES, BE SETTLED THROUGH A SIDE STATEMENT, NOT A PART OF THE LEGAL TEXT.

4. OTHER POINTS EXPECTED TO BE SETTLED DURING THE MEETING CONCERN THE LEGAL BASIS UNDER WHICH THE DECISION IS CODIFIED (ARTICLE 138 OF THE ROME TREATY SEEMS FAVORED), THE NATURE OF THE ACT--WHETHER CONVENTION OR COUNCIL DIRECTIVE, AND THE LENGTH OF TIME POLLS SHOULD BE KEPT OPEN.

5. EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL.

THE MINISTERS WILL DISCUSS PREPARATIONS FOR THE MEETING OF THE EC/GREECE ASSOCIATION COUNCIL TO BE HELD IN BRUSSELS LATER THAT DAY (REFTEL).

6. CIEC.

FOLLOWING THE FINANCE MINISTERS' JULY 26 DISCUSSION OF THE NORTH/SOUTH DIALOGUE, THE FOREIGN MINISTERS WILL RESUME THEIR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TALKS ON CIEC ON THE 27TH.

7. LOS CONFERENCE.

THE MINISTERS WILL RESUME THEIR DISCUSSION OF EC PREPARATIONS FOR THE UN LAW OF THE SEA CONFERENCE.

8. 200-MILE FISHERIES ZONE

A PERMREP SOURCE HAS TOLD US THAT A COMPROMISE MIGHT BE

REACHED TODAY (JULY 23) ON THE PROPOSED EC DECLARATION OF
INTENT TO ESTABLISH A 200-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHERIES ZONE (REFTEL).
IF THE MATTER HAS NOT BEEN RESOLVED BY THEN, THE MINISTERS WILL
TAKE IT UP AGAIN ON JULY 27.HINTON

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